

America Leads the World at Swimming, and Its Natators Are Preparing for Further Assaults on Records

SWIMMERS READY FOR BIG SEASON

Start of Last Year Again Expected to Make Assault on Indoor Records.

VOLLMER IN THE VAN

At the time of the Swedish Olympic Games Duke Kahanamoku, Honolulu's human fish, was considered without a peer in tank or open water. With his wonderful endurance, speed and powerful strokes the dusky Hawaiian cut records to bits, ploughed through the water at an average clip and otherwise distanced all opponents. America then named that it must develop watermen if it could hope to compete with the Honolulu swimmers, and America has developed these natators.

At present there are more great swimmers living in the United States than in all the rest of the world. From Herbert Vollmer of Columbia University and the New York A. C. to Ludy Langer of Los Angeles, the dash and distance champions respectively, the swimmers of this country make up a versatile and accomplished aggregation which easily could distance any team of natators that could be gathered.

There is a reason for these titled natators and it is found in the many aquatic clubs of the nation, in which have been built at great cost modern tanks. Almost every prominent club employs a swimming coach at a high figure, and the coach to hold his job must necessarily develop talent worth while. Swimming is as much an American institution right now as golf and baseball.

Swimming to the Fore.

The indoor swimming season will be at hand almost before the coaches are aware of it. It can be said that none will be caught napping. Already the New York A. C. team is practicing and almost every big college in the country has its team in competition. The Intercollegiate Swimming League already has had meets in which Pennsylvania and Columbia swimmers were successful, each defeating City College. Plans are being made in many parts of the country for indoor meets.

At Buffalo next Tuesday the first of the big tank contests are to be held in the Central Y. M. C. A. tank of that city. Invitations have been sent out to almost every swimming organization in the country and entries have been received from enough to assure competition of the highest order. The New York A. C. under the care of Matthew Mann, the coach, will have a full team, among them being Hal Vollmer, Ted Cann, Al Downa, Joe Wheatley, Cyril Carroll, Joe Ruddy, Jerald Smith, John Zimmock and John Curran.

Yale has signified its intention of entering a team in the meet, and probably will send candidates for each event. Yale has had great success in the tank and expects to be equal to any emergency again this season.

Vollmer Was Big Star.

Probably the most prominent swimmer developed last season and who bids fair to be even better this season is Hal Vollmer, captain of the Columbia University team and a prominent contestant with the New York A. C. Last year Vollmer established seven records. He bettered the time for all bath races from 150 yards to 800 meters inclusive and in doing so defeated some of the best swimmers in the country. He also won the 400 yards at the New York A. C. Vollmer swam the distance in 4 minutes 51.5 seconds, one of the best performances ever recorded.

Not only did Vollmer make great headway among the stars of the water, but he helped materially to keep Columbia in high place in the Intercollegiate Swimming League. He defeated the peer of them all, Ludy Langer of Los Angeles. Langer undoubtedly is one of the greatest distance stars since Bud Goodwin started breaking records. Vollmer's time was a quarter of a mile, but he established new records at a half mile and 1,000 yards. He defeated the peer of them all, Ludy Langer of Los Angeles. Langer undoubtedly is one of the greatest distance stars since Bud Goodwin started breaking records. Vollmer's time was a quarter of a mile, but he established new records at a half mile and 1,000 yards. He defeated the peer of them all, Ludy Langer of Los Angeles. Langer undoubtedly is one of the greatest distance stars since Bud Goodwin started breaking records.

West Has Swimmers.

The Illinois Athletic Club, which for a time hoisted all national titles and threatened to swamp the swimming market with talent, lost little of its prestige last season and right now threatens to again ascend to the utmost peak. There is a galaxy of exceptional swimming stars sporting in the I. A. C. tank each day preparing to storm the meets of the country.

Among the prominent swimmers there are Perry McDermott, Michael McDermott, H. J. Heiber, William Vosburgh, A. C. Hattell and D. J. Jones. Each of these men have established records at their favorite distances. The first four named established a 400 yard relay record which probably will withstand the ravages of time.

Clement Browne of the Hamilton Club is another Chicago swimmer of national prominence. At any distance over a quarter of a mile Browne is a dangerous contender. Many Chicagoans believe that Browne is the man to take the measure of Langer and undoubtedly will be arranged this season where these sterling performers can be pitted against each other.

N. Y. A. C. Tank Improved.

Although the national swimming season has not yet started, the New York A. C. tank is expected to be the scene of some of the most remarkable records. The New York A. C. has improved its tank in the past few years and is practicing there it seems the N. Y. A. C. is expecting or preparing to annex all the titles.

From unofficial sources it is rumored that Bud Goodwin will be active in the swimming world again. He is determined to make another assault on the records and hopes to regain some of the laurels which once belonged to him. He probably will confine his attention to distance events, at which he still is an expert performer. Goodwin is a swimmer who has a remarkable record. Few athletes ever won as many championships as has Bud.

FORDHAM TO BUILD TRACK.

Coach Horrie Wefer, coach of the Fordham track team, yesterday announced he expects to build a new outdoor wooden track at Fordham Field during the holidays. More Fordham runners will be entered in meets this year. Indications point to a successful season.

SWIMMERS WHOSE WORK STANDS OUT PROMINENTLY IN RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 1916.



ROUGH AND TUMBLE BOXING RAMPANT

Rules of Commission Are Being Ignored All Over This State.

By CROSS COUNTRY.

How much longer, Messrs. Boxing Commissioners, are the patrons of the so-called many art to be afflicted with the rough and tumble fights that mar every boxing programme presented in the Empire State?

Not only are the original rules of the commission flagrantly violated, but even the Queensberry regulations are not observed or enforced.

Wrestling, mugging with the head of the glove, butting with the head, holding with one hand and hitting with the other, back heeling and hitting below the belt, all of which are specifically prohibited by all rules of pugilism, from the London code to those of the present day, are openly done in all clubs and not a word of protest from any one in authority, including the referees.

Occasionally when fair minded spectators voice their disapproval of the disgusting foul tactics of the contestants, the referees have been known to cast a reproachful look at the offenders. Even when a boxer has been disabled by a foul, the referee has shirked the responsibility of disqualification and the club physician has been called upon to decide. The attitude of the referees is easy to understand. They receive their compensation from the club managers and these gentlemen strongly object to the stoppage of a bout for any other reason than a knockout or the conclusion of the last round of the limit.

Inefficient Inspection.

It is true that the members of the Boxing Commission cannot be present at every bout, but they are represented by inspectors who attend the bouts to see that the rules of the commission are strictly observed," according to clause 14 of the commission regulations.

But with the exception of occasional bursts of activity, the inspectors do not inspect. They watch the bouts with the greatest interest and then help count the tickets. These inspectors should be at once instructed to order referees and club managers to enforce the rules against foul fighting. It should be done immediately on the commission of the offense, and the violator of the rules punished at once by disqualification. If this were done, the boxers who are guilty of habitual use of foul tactics would quickly learn to box cleanly, with the result that the standard of the sport would be quickly raised.

Rule 10 of the commission regulations says "there shall be no coaching by seconds or any other persons," yet four leather lunged seconds in each corner, an octette in all, how like a drove of coaches from the first gone to the last. Why do not the inspectors put a stop to this intolerable nuisance?

It is high time that the Boxing Commission, and that is to terminate foul fighting and noisy coaching in the clubs operating under the Frawley law.

Hugging and Clinching.

The crying evil of bouts as conducted at present is the tendency of nearly all boxers to clinch and hug, the contest degenerating into a wrestling match. The Queensberry rules specifically prohibit hugging and wrestling, and it is the plain duty of a referee to first warn and then disqualify an offender. This is the only effective remedy that can be employed, the suggestion that taking out time for every clinch being unfeasible.

Therefore, the only way in which these evils can be abated is for the Boxing Commission to instruct club owners to notify club referees to strictly enforce the rules, even if a few choice bouts are interrupted in the early stages. It is a gratifying fact that a majority of boxers do not resort to foul tactics. Men like Mieske, Dillon, Levinsky,



ARTHUR McELENAN, JR.
NEW YORK, A.C.

Weinert, Cowler, Darcy, Britton, Graves, Lewis, Leonard, Welch, White, Cline, Johnson, Welling, Williams, Wilde and many others who could be named are conspicuous examples of clean, scientific boxers. The offenders for the most part are men who have never learned the fine points of boxing and depend almost entirely on their strength and combativeness.

No State Titles.

The proposal to have a bout staged for the State bantam championship, 115 pounds, while harmless, might be useful if conducted under proper conditions. No championship can be established in a bout lacking a decision unless there is a knockout, and the chances of any of the bantams hereabouts stopping each other inside the ten round limit are remote. If the commission rules could be altered so as to provide for decisions, then the State championships would mean something.

Nothing doing. The boxer is a game foreigner to Brazil. Well, he could wrestle, he offered the same prize to whomever would remain fifteen minutes with him on the mat. Again nothing doing. The full Nelson, hammerlock, and the holds are mythical propositions to Brazil. The third round offered by the state and the supporters claim it is more efficient than boxing.

Origin of the Game.

"Capoeira" originated with the negro slaves in the Brazil of the old days, and it is the only game played in this country which is of truly national origin. Played as the runaway slaves, captured by their pursuers, fought it capoeira was a bloody and often fatal to both opponents. "When in deadly earnest the 'capoeira' held a knife or cane between his toes, a trick easily managed by those who ran barefoot all their lives and who practiced the game from infancy.

"To-day the game has developed into a game of skill and grace, and is one of the school boys' chief amusements during play hours. There are no holds, no grapples, and the body is free from attack and every part of the body is in full play. As a means of self-defense its supporters claim it is more efficient than boxing."

Awful Disgrace!

Pugilists live in the past met with serious setbacks, such as fighting des-



HAL VOLLMER
NEW YORK A.C.

would be pleased to name. Then there was something doing.

Round One.

"In a packed theatre the boxer-wrestler stepped out to meet the 'contest.' They shook hands, backed away and closed. The boxer's right shot to where the Brazilian's jaw should have been. It was not there. The boxer's open left hand came back to the boxer's face and swung him a fraction of an inch off his balance. The Brazilian dropped onto his hands with the agility of a cat. His right foot swung under his body and he fell the left foot caught him full on the neck and jaw.

About a month later the American athlete was discharged from the hospital. The lump on his jaw where the compound fracture was made was still a 'supercup' rag, the 'many art of self-defense' as the Brazilian understands it.

Boxing as a profession is a terrible strain on the body of the old days, and it is the only game played in this country which is of truly national origin. Played as the runaway slaves, captured by their pursuers, fought it capoeira was a bloody and often fatal to both opponents. "When in deadly earnest the 'capoeira' held a knife or cane between his toes, a trick easily managed by those who ran barefoot all their lives and who practiced the game from infancy.

Good Place for Vote.

A rough and not overcomplete count of golfing noses at Pinehurst lately resulted in the discovery that representatives of over fifty different golf clubs located in all sections of the country were simultaneously on deck, some of the clubs being represented by anywhere from two or three to a dozen members.

In view of the fact that this count was taken at a time when golfers are exceedingly likely to be staying home for Christmas and that it was not taken on the eve of a tournament it has been suggested that next week, when Christmas has passed and the midwinter tournament is on, would be an excellent time during which to take a straw vote at Pinehurst on the Outing question. Whatever the result of the vote it would certainly be entitled to consideration as fairly representative of the feeling among golf clubs throughout the country.

New Stars Are Needed.

Phil Carter, Frank Dyer and some other players who have made fine records at Pinehurst in past seasons are expected at that resort in the near future to contest the supremacy of the four players who have had things pretty well their own way down there so far, the Big Four being Parker ("Buck") Whittemore, Brookline, whose recent 72 on course No. 1 stands as the best of the young season; Robert Hunter of Norton and the West Huron Club, who won the medal in the Carolina tournament and both the medal and the finals in the autumn tournaments; and Donald Parsons, Youngstown, runner up in the autumn tournament.

"Swatstick" is decidedly popular at Pinehurst. Ralph Page in his "Duke of Abolition" letters running in the Pinehurst Outlook refers to the swat as "a new name invented by Becker, which is played in all essentials the same as golf. In its essential points it resembles a bear raid on the cotton market, and found me long six drives, two fabled approaches and a misplaced putt."

A new eighteen hole course has just been opened for play at Porters Monroe under the control of the Hotel Chamberlain, and promises to furnish an excellent stopover for those who are fearful of getting out of practice on their way South.

ATLANTA UNCOVERS ONE MORE GOLFER

Fred Morris, Another Prodigy, Lives in Suburbs but Plays Top Game.

Atlanta, Ga., is so full of youthful golf prodigies that they are now overflowing into the suburbs of that favored city. Fred Morris, Jr., better known locally as Little Fred, lives out at Marietta, a few miles from Atlanta, and has been performing remarkably well on the short nine hole practice course of the Marietta Golf Club. Only three of the holes call for wood. The other six are par three, and Fred has made a record of five, four, three, two and two for three successive rounds must be considered an achievement.

None of the older club members have seen anywhere near those figures, though a lot of them have been trying to keep pace with the youngster on the practice course. In that card of 55 for twenty-seven holes Fred was five, five, four, three and two. The record would be a good enough finger score for the season for most players.

Pinehurst is the only place in the South which has held any tournaments of any importance so far this winter. Sixty-one players took part in the medal round of the autumn tournament late in November, and the indications are that a record field will line up for the beginning of play in the fourteenth annual midwinter on December 25.

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There is a disposition on the part of some American boxers to invade Cuba as are residents of Argentina since they witnessed the "terrific combat" between Sam McVay and Sam Langford.

GOLF WAS PLAYED IN AMERICA IN 1811

William Harden Finds Evidence of Club Made Up of Savannah Residents.

INVITATION GIVES FACTS

Since the death of John Reid, Sr., of St. Andrews, generally considered the father of American golf and the man who introduced the popular Scottish pastime in America, historians are digging deep into the dusty archives of this country and in some cases are finding out a little more about the history of the sport. Recently a Charleston, S. C., enthusiast found mention of a golf club called to order in 1794, but no mention of links or course is made. Now *Vanity Fair* will publish in its current issue an article by William Harden of the Georgia Historical Society in which Harden offers substantial proof that golf was played near Savannah a hundred years ago.

Harden bases his deductions upon an invitation issued in Savannah December 20, 1811, in which Miss Eliza Johnston was asked to attend a ball to be given by the members of the golf club at the city exchange on New Market street. The invitation was signed by George Woodruff, Robert Mackay, John Craig and James Dickson, as managers of the club, and George Hogarth, treasurer. In his article Harden offers evidence to prove these characters were true and important persons in Savannah at that time.

Legendary Period Ancient.

"There are two chief periods in the history of golf in America; first, the so-called mythical period, or the years before 1850; and second, the period beginning with the opening of golf clubs at St. Andrews and Shinnecock, series Harden. The object of this article is to show that the legendary period really ended about seventy years earlier than is commonly supposed.

"In 1811 there were only two newspapers published in Savannah. One was called the *Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser* and the other the *Republican and Savannah Evening Leader*. With the purpose in view of ascertaining whether any printed mention of the club was made by the press of the town, a very careful inspection of the files of these papers was made. The *Columbian Museum* revealed the following notice dated Monday, November 25, 1811:

"The members of the Golf Club are requested to meet at the exchange this evening at 7 o'clock."

Miss Johnston Society Belle.

"Miss Eliza Johnston was one of the belles of Savannah when the exchange was the scene of so many balls and dinner parties. She was the daughter of Col. James Johnston, one of the leading citizens of Savannah, who held many positions of trust. He was a merchant, Colonel of the First Regiment of Georgia Volunteers and a trustee of the exchange from 1806 to 1810.

"It is a pity that no list of the members of the Savannah Golf Club has as yet been discovered. We have only the names of the treasurer and the managers. It is a remarkable fact that all of these men were Scotchmen. The managers were likewise men of prominence in the life of Savannah.

"George Woodruff was a merchant of the firm Woodruff & Brant, and in 1805 was the treasurer of the Chatham Academy, an educational institution chartered in 1788. He was an Alderman of Savannah in 1803.

"Robert Mackay was also a prominent merchant. He was for a long time a member of the firm of Meln & Mackay. He married Miss Eliza McQueen, daughter of John McQueen, January 20, 1808. Their descendants are prominent in Savannah right now.

Craig Was a Banker.

"John Craig was in business with R. Mitchell, using the firm name of J. Craig & R. Mitchell. Craig was a commissioner of the Planters Bank of the State of Georgia in 1811. He died in 1815.

"James Dickson died in 1835. He left no wife and no heirs. Administrators papers show that no property went into the hands of the administrator.

"It must be borne in mind that in the days of which we are writing newspapers were scarce and that the social functions, even in the matter of assembly balls, although advertisements of them were printed in the papers, nothing was said editorially. Considering the extreme poverty of the time, it cannot be doubted that residents of Savannah played golf more than a century ago, and that, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, Savannah can fairly claim the honor of being one of the first places in the country that could boast of possessing a regularly organized golf club."

CANADIAN SEVENS COMING.

Queens University and Loyola College to Play Hockey Here.

Two of the best college hockey teams in Canada, the Queens University of Kingston, and the Loyola College of Montreal, will soon appear at the St. Nicholas rink. The Queens team will meet the Crescent players next Saturday night, and the following Thursday Loyola College of Montreal will line up against the Irish American team.

Queens College is noted for the hockey players it turns out. The teams came to New York for the last seven or eight years, with the exception of last season, and were beaten but once in that time. In February, 1915, the St. Nicholas team beat Queens by 4 to 1. In the same season the St. Nicholas beat five other Canadian teams.

Loyola generally produces some of the fastest hockey sevens in Canada. Its history dates back beyond the famous Shamrock team of 1899, which was composed of former Loyola boys. The team held the Stanley cup for several years.

BOYS HIGH IN LEAD.

Beats Commerce and Goes to Fore in Chess League.

Another round was contested in the high school chess series at the Eastern District Y. M. C. A. in Brooklyn, yesterday, and at the close of the day, the team, which defeated Commerce by 4 to 0, led the field with a total of 17½ points.

In the other matches De Witt Clinton defeated Curtis by 3 to 1, New Utrecht won from Erasmus by 4 to 0, Newtown forfeited to Morris, and Eastern District and Stuyvesant tied at 2 to 2. The standings follow:

School	W	L	Draw	Points
High School	17	2	1	17½
De Witt Clinton	12	4	1	12½
Stuyvesant	10	4	1	10½
Commerce	10	4	1	10½
Newtown	9	5	1	9½

SHORT PERIOD CRY IS NOT BORNE OUT

Statistics Prove Harvard and Yale Played Full Time in Game.

NEED NO RULE CHANGE

By SOL METZGER, Coach of Washington and Jefferson Football Team.

Statistics are not usually interesting and they are too often neglected in football. Fortunately the story about the short second period in the Yale-Harvard game puts a little spice into football statistics, especially as there has been some talk since then of substituting a certain number of plays each quarter instead of a certain period of time, as is now the rule.

Such a step would be so radical that there is great doubt of its receiving recognition if adopted. It would necessarily change the generalship of football, as it would fail of its purpose to speed up the game. Indeed there seems no logical ground for it, because the one game (Yale-Harvard) which is supposed to be the cause of this talk was more rapidly played than the other big Eastern contests this fall.

Statistics prove that in it there were 175 plays, 89 in the first half to 86 in the second, rather a startling comparison when the kick about the short second quarter is recalled. In the Yale-Princeton game had 156 plays, the Princeton 146 and such epochal battles as the Brown-Colgate and Harvard-Brown contests went to 125 and 134 plays only. It is unfortunate that I do not have a similar record of the Pittsburgh team in its major games. Its high speed of play and the fact that it had little punting to do would place it near the top.

Slow Plays Went Quickly.

The strange thing about the figures given above is that the Yale-Harvard game was the most rapidly played in the history of the sport. In fact, it was played 37 times and attempted 17 forward passes, two styles of play that unquestionably consume more time than the running attack. Indeed, Harvard used the forward pass as much in its Yale and Brown games as Pennsylvania in its Cornell game, though with far less effect. The Crimson passed twice, but the game was not so much in the hands of the forward pass as it was in the hands of the Harvard passes were incomplete because the ball was passed from a distance, and the line short of the necessary five yards is proof of this.

Based on the records of the five games here recorded the average number of runs, kicks and forward passes in a full game is 145, 74 to each half, and by actual compilation the average number of plays actually run off in each half of these five games was exactly that number. Well trained football players therefore do not tire after the first half. In fact, big games usually prove the opposite if points are to be considered. The better team of two makes most of its points in the second half, and in close games the last quarter is the deciding one.

Accurately kept figures of the play of Washington and Jefferson this past fall in all games also proved this conclusively. This eleven scored 247 points to 100 opponents. Its best period was the fourth, when it totaled 72 to 48 in the first, a period which had everything in its favor in the minor games, for after that was over substitutions were frequent. And in the last period was its strongest defensive one, this in the face of the fact that the eleven averaged under 165 pounds.

Weight Still Factor.

Football men have long known that superior weight is of advantage to a team. Even those who advocate the forward pass as a play likely to offset this advantage actually mean, all else being equal.

If a player weighing from ten to twenty pounds less than another is tackled when carrying the ball by the heavier player, the latter will be able to push him back and keep him from getting forward. The statistics of play in our big games rather clearly show what weight advantage actually means, all else being equal.

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Open football proved decidedly more popular the past fall. The average number of forward passes in the five games mentioned was seven to twenty-one points. Harvard used the pass as much as Penn or Cornell, and Yale passed the way for victory in several cases by use of this attack. Harvard and Yale in their game did more punting than other teams, more than one-fifth of their plays being punts, whereas in the Harvard-Brown game but eleven punts were used. Brown, owing to its strong attack, punting but four times. Statistics prove that a weak running attack or a light line depends mostly on the punt and forward pass and that the punt is the favorite play of big teams in the fall important game.

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MARION ALUMNI TO HELP.

"Fordham Rams" Aid Athletics by Financial Support.

True to the pledge of the alumni made at a banquet given the varsity eleven last Monday night a new association has been formed to help the financial needs of Fordham University that will encourage sports at Fordham. The body has adopted the name Fordham Rams. The present number is fifty, and the limit is to be 200 members.

Dr. George Lettner, president of the Alumni Association, has been chosen leader of the body and will secure the promise of greater financial support for Fordham from the alumni. It is expected that important facts along this line will be announced shortly.